THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) The Government of India considers its maritime boundary with Sri Lanka settled under the Agreements concluded with Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976. Under the Agreements, the Island of Katchatheevu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line. Both these Agreements were subsequently laid before Parliament. Under the Agreement, Indian fishermen are allowed access to Kachatheevu Island for rest, for drying of nets and for the annual St. Anthony's festival. The right of access is not understood to cover fishing rights around the island to Indian fishermen. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions for fishermen, Government reached an understanding with the Sri Lankan Government on 26th October, 2008 to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line.

Pakistan's activities against India

1376. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Pakistan has been using bilateral and multilateral civilian aid against India for various disruptive purposes;

(b) if so, whether Government took up the matter with US Government to apply benchmark that aid given by USA would not be used against India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Pakistan forces violated ceasefire agreement and fired at Indian posts during the last one month to divert attention from its troubled areas; and

(e) if so, what is the guarantee that aid would not be used against India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Government believes that credible action is required on Pakistan's part to deal with terrorist elements directing their energy to disrupt and destabilize our economy and polity.

(b) and (c) Government has conveyed its concerns to the Government of the United States regarding the risk of diversion of US aid by Pakistan towards acquisition of weapons for use against India.

(d) and (e) Since 1 June, 2009, there has been one cease fire violation on 3 June, 2009. Government will take such steps as are necessary to safeguard the country's interests.

Solution to Tamil problem

†1377. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan to explore a permanent solution to Tamil problems with Government of Sri Lanka and their rehabilitation;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.